

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 13, 2003

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DEFENDANTS AGREE TO FORFEIT OVER NINETEEN MILLION DOLLARS

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on January 10, 2003, Gerald C. Trussell, 58, and Peter L. Macari, 61, pled guilty to Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering before United States District Court Judge James A. Teilborg, in Federal District Court in Phoenix, Arizona. Trussell, of Laveen, Arizona, and Macari, of Scottsdale, Arizona, agreed to a forfeiture judgment in the amount of \$19,946,380. When sentenced by Judge Teilborg on June 2, 2003, Trussell and Macari will receive prison sentences of between 30 and 37 months.

Records in the case indicate that the defendants engaged in a wide-ranging scheme over a period of years in which they tricked investors across the United States and in foreign countries into investing millions of dollars in non-existent investments. They did so by promising rates of return of 150% on the investments with no risk. The defendants represented to potential investors that the money invested would be used to purchase prime bank financial instruments. These instruments do not exist according to the Federal Reserve. In the course of the scheme the

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defendants also used more than 40 bank accounts, both in the United States and abroad, to conceal money they received. The also used money received from more recent investors to repay some of the previous investors in a classic "Ponzi" scheme.

The investigation leading to the charges against Trussell and Macari was conducted by Angela Wong of the Internal Revenue Service and Michelle Pickens of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution of the case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorneys Howard Sukenic and Mary Beth Phillips. Assistant United States Attorneys Steve Winerip and Reid Pixler, also of Phoenix, assisted in the prosecution.

CASE NUMBER: CR-00-713-PHX-JAT
RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-003

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